

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9843

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, AO

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS ON ANGOLA

REF: USNATO 713

1. SUMMARY. PRAVDA CARRIES REPORT THAT PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA HAS BEEN ACCEPTED INTO THE OAU; REPORT GIVES IMPRESSION THAT DECISION IS FINAL. SOVIET TV CARRIES AN INTERVIEW WITH NETO IN WHICH MPLA LEADER EFFUSIVELY THANKS MOSCOW FOR SUPPORT PROVIDED DURING STRUGGLE, AND CONVEYS FURTHER IMPRESSION THAT VICTORY IS WON, THANKS TO EFFECTIVE JOINT EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA (FEB 12) FRONT-PAGES A TASS REPORT FROM ADDIS
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ABABA THAT THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA HAS BEEN

ACCEPTED AS A MEMBER OF THE OAU. ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS CONTAINED IN A TELEGRAM TO NETO FROM THE OAU GENERAL SECRETARY WHO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT "IN ACCORDANCE WITH A DECISION OF THE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER OF THE OAU," THE REQUEST OF THE PRA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE OAU "IS MET."

3. ELSEWHERE, PRAVDA REPORTS THAT SOVIET TV CARRIED (FEB 11) AN INTERVIEW WITH NETO IN WHICH THE MPLA LEADER STRONGLY CONDEMNED "IMPERIALIST EFFORTS TO RETAIN CONTROL OF ANGOLA." FOLLOWING A FEW SWIPES AT ALLEGED AMERICAN EFFORTS TO "DICTATE" THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT ANGOLA SHOULD HAVE, NETO TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO THE SUBJECT OF SOVIET SUPPORT AND EFFUSIVELY THANKED MOSCOW FOR THE "HELP GIVEN THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA," AND FOR ITS "CONSISTENT SUPPORT OF PEOPLE STRUGGLING FOR FREEDOM."

4. IN A BRIEF REPORT ON THE VISIT TO THE US BY NATO SYG LUNS, PRAVDA CLAIMS THE AMERICAN PRESS SPECULATES THAT DURING OFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS "SPECIAL ATTENTION" IS BEING DEVOTED TO THE "COORDINATION" OF POLICY IN ANGOLA, WHERE, ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, "AS IS WELL KNOWN, NATO, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE US, IS PROVIDING BROAD SUPPORT VIA ARMS AND MERCENARIES" TO THE ANTI-MPLA GROUPS. PRAVDA ADDS THAT THE MERCENARIES ALLEGEDLY BEING RECRUITED IN THE UK, THE FRG, AND OTHER WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, ARE BEING TRANSPORTED TO ANGOLA THROUGH BRUSSELS, "THE LOCATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC BLOC."

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE PRAVDA ACCOUNT FUZZES THE QUESTION OF WHO GAVE THE NOD TO THE MPLA REGIME FOR ADMITTANCE INTO THE OAU, THE REPORT CARRIES A DISTINCT RING OF FINALITY TO THE DECISION. IN ADDITION, THE TONE OF NETO'S REMARKS CONVEYS THE IMPRESSION THAT, ON THE OCCASION OF A JOINT VICTORY, HE IS EXPRESSING HIS THANKS TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR A JOB WELL DONE.
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